

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /060 W

----- 049979

R 291700Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 713

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L OPORTO 309

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MIL PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL/MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

REF: OPORTO 298

1. POLITICAL/MILITARY SITUATION REMAINS UNSETTLED IN THE NORTH. FOR PART OF THE NIGHT OCT 28/29, MILITARY UNITS FROM NORTHERN REGIONAL COMMAND (RMN) CONDUCTED LIMITED "OPERATION STOP" IN SEVERAL PARTS OF OPORTO. WARNING SHOTS WERE FIRED TO INSURE THAT ALL DRIVERS STOP AT CHECK POINTS. DESPITE PRECAUTIONS, TWO BOMBS EXPLODED IN OPORTO BEFORE DAWN DAMAGING CARS BELONGING TO COMMUNIST (PCP) MEMBER AND MILITARY OFFICER ALIGNED WITH "SOLDIERS UNITED WILL WIN" (SUV).

2. OPORTO ARTILLERY REGIMENT (RASP), HAS NEW COMMANDERS LT. COL ESTEVES AND LT.COL. FERREIRA, WHILE OLD COMMANDERS REMAIN ON RASP BASE INCLUDING MAJ ARAGAO WHO IS SLATED TO HEAD NEW OPERATIONAL UNIT IN DRIVING TRAINING CENTER (CICAP). ESTEVES IS SAID TO BE LOYAL TO RMN COMMANDER BG VELOSO.

3. BG VELOSO APPEARS PARTICULARLY CONFIDENT SINCE RECEIVING HUGE OVATION DURING RALLY FOR VISITING PRIME MINISTER (REFTEL). HOWEVER, VELOSO ADMITTED TO ME DURING SHORT CALL ON OCT 29 THAT PROBLEMS WITH RASP/CICAP ARE STILL UNRESOLVED.

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4. BOARD OF INQUIRY HEADED BY BG. TORRES MAGALHAES

INVESTIGATING RASP/CICAP EVENTS IS STILL UNDERWAY. MAGALHAES
WAS PICKED FOR THIS JOB BY ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FABIAO AND THERE
IS SPECULATION HERE THAT MAGALHAES MAY BE AT ODDS WITH VELOSO.

5. MEANWHILE JUST TO KEEP POT BOILING RASP/CICAP ACTION
COMMISSION HAS SCHEDULED PLENARY MEETING AND RALLY TONIGHT
IN OPORTO.

PENNER

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